

29 November 1969

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RESTRICTED HANDLING

CITE HEADQUARTERS 578

TO: SAIGON ⁰⁵⁴

25X1

REF: A. DIRECTOR 54392

B. HEADQUARTERS 541

1. OF THE INDICATORS WE HAVE REQUESTED THAT THE STATION PROVIDE US FOR OOB EACH MONDAY, ONLY ARVN COMBAT DEATHS APPEAR TO CAUSE PROBLEMS. DISCREPANCIES IN WEEKLY REPORTS OF SVN COMBAT DEATHS DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO HIGHER AUTHORITY. TIME LAG IN ACQUISITION OF STATISTICS FROM OUTLYING AREAS WHICH DELAYS COMPILATION OF FINAL FIGURES AND NEED FOR WEEK LATER UPDATE IS WELL UNDERSTOOD.

2. FOLLOWING FROM WEEKLY REPORTED FIGURES AND PRESS RELEASES ILLUSTRATES OUR PROBLEM:

A. SVN KILLED WEEK ENDING 8 NOVEMBER

MACV WEEKLY SUM	12 NOV	266
UPDATE	19 NOV	381
PRESS RELEASE	13 NOV	398

SECRET

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B. WEEK ENDING 15 NOVEMBER

MACV WEEKLY	19 NOV	206
UPDATE	26 NOV	310
PRESS RELEASE	20 NOV	497

C. WEEK ENDING 22 NOVEMBER

MACV WEEKLY	26 NOV	277
UPDATE	NOT YET RECEIVED	
PRESS RELEASE	27 NOV	567

FROM ABOVE, APPEARS THAT MACV WEEKLY SUMMARY AND UPDATE GREATLY UNDERSTATES SVN COMBAT DEATHS WHEN COMPARED TO THE QUOTE MILITARY SPOKESMEN UNQUOTE RELEASES WHICH RECEIVE HEAVY EXPOSURE AND REPLAY HERE.

3. IMPACT OF DISCREPANCIES ON REFERENCE "A" PROJECT OBVIOUS. REALIZE THIS DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE, BUT REQUEST THAT WEEKLY CABLE ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE BEST ESTIMATE SVN COMBAT DEATHS. ALSO, REQUEST YOUR THOUGHTS ON HOW, IF AT ALL, THIS GAP CAN BE MINIMIZED IN VIEW OF OUR MONDAY DEADLINE NEED FOR PREVIOUS SATURDAY'S FIGURES.

END OF MESSAGE

